

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A two-component running board for a vehicle comprising:
 - a unitary lower support structure, said structure attaching to a motor vehicle in a generally parallel orientation to said vehicle, positioned below the passenger doors of the vehicle, said structure having a plurality of integral walls, a plurality of crossing walls positioned such as to provide rigidity to the structure;
 - a step cover, said cover attaching to said supporting structure having a generally planar stepping surface on a top side thereof;wherein when said support structure is mounted to a vehicle and step cover is attached to said supporting structure forming the running board assembly, the running board assembly can support the weight of at least one vehicle passenger.
2. The two-component running board of Claim 1 wherein said lower support structure is made of a first moldable material, and has a generally planar bottom surface.
3. The two-component running board of Claim 1 wherein said lower support structure comprises at least one integral mounting means, attaching said support structure to a vehicle, said mounting means supporting the weight of the running board assembly and at least one vehicle passenger.

4. The two-component running board of Claim 1 wherein said lower support structure comprises an integral means of attaching said step cover.
5. The two-component running board of Claim 1 wherein said step cover is of a second moldable material, and is attached to the lower support structure by a fastening means.
6. The two-component running board of Claim 5 wherein said step cover further comprises an anti-slip means on said stepping surface.
7. The two-component running board of Claim 5 wherein said fastening means comprises a set of locking tabs integrated in said step cover, for being received in a complementary set of locking slots in said lower support structure.
8. The two-component running board of Claim 5 wherein said fastening means comprises machine fasteners.
9. The two-component running board of Claim 5 wherein said fastening means comprises a weld.

10. A multiple-piece running board for a vehicle comprising:

at least one lower support structure, said structure attaching to a motor vehicle in a generally parallel orientation to said vehicle, positioned below the passenger doors of the vehicle, said structure having a plurality of integral walls, a plurality of crossing walls, said lower support structure comprising an integral means of attaching a step cover, and further comprising an integral mounting means of attaching said support structure to the vehicle;

at least one step cover, said cover attaching to said supporting structure having a generally planar stepping surface on a top side thereof, said step cover further comprises an anti-slip means on said stepping surface and an integral means of securing said cover to said mounting structure;

wherein when said support structure is mounted to a vehicle and step cover is attached to said supporting structure forming the running board assembly, the running board assembly is able to support the weight of at least one vehicle passenger.